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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

RUSSIAN APPLES IN NORTHERN EUROPEAN MARKETS

The quality of apples from Russian Crimea offered in northern European markets is good and the packaging excellent, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, from Mr. F. A. Motz, the Department's fruit specialist in Europe. Russian apples are packed in standard boxes of the size used in the Pacific Northwest; they are well graded and each apple separately wrapped. Labels used are the same as in America. It can be said that the pack compares favorably with that of the northwest States. While at Hamburg, Mr. Motz reports seeing liberal quantities of Russian apples on display at the quays but not as many as were in evidence at Stockholm, where 15,000 boxes were stacked in the free port. Stockholm is not so well situated as many European ports for direct shipments of apples from New York and Canadian ports, consequently the Russian supply has been drawn on.

Russian apples are shipped from the producing sections of Russia to Leningrad and re-distributed from there. It takes but five days for fruit to reach Stockholm from Crimea, four days to Leningrad and one day from there to Stockholm. The fruit arrives in excellent condition. One large importer in Stockholm has been specializing in Crimean apples and has done much towards furthering their distribution. This broker has handled more than 27,000 boxes so far this season. This fruit can be laid down in Stockholm for 10 Kr. per box as compared with 14 to 16 Kr. for American apples.

The leading Russian varieties on sale at this time were Queen Beauty, Belle Fleur Jaune, Simirenco and Reinette de Champagne. The Queen Beauty is a large apple, red in color with a good smooth finish, bright and quite attractive in appearance. It is a distinctly Russian type and closely resembles certain varieties produced in America and known as the Russian Group. The eating quality is only fair, the flesh being rather coarse and insipid. The Belle Fleur Jaune is a medium-sized yellow apple grown in Omsbekiston. It is smooth, has a good appearance and is of quite good quality. The Simirenco, a small greenish yellow apple, has perhaps the greatest possibilities of them all. It is about the size of a Grimes Golden, but has the appearance of a Winter Sweet Paradise or Tolman Sweet. The skin is clean and smooth, almost like wax, and in some respects looks artificial. It possesses splendid quality, is very juicy, has a good flavor and is sweet. It also has a desirable shape. The Reinette de Champagne is another variety being shipped in considerable quantity. It is a medium sized apple, yellowish in color with a reddish blush. It is very smooth, clean, well-shaped and quite attractive in appearance. The flavor, however, is very much against it since it is very astringent. From the standpoint of flavor it would not offer serious competition for most American varieties.

